

these countries prefer their own enslavement. We must stand with reformers and dissidents and civil society organizations, and hasten the day when the people of these nations can determine their own future and choose their own leaders. These people may not gain their liberty overnight, but history is on their side.

Tonight I will leave India to travel to Pakistan, another important partner and friend of the United States. There was a time when America's good relations with Pakistan would have been a source of concern here in India. That day's passed. India is better off because America has a close relationship with Pakistan, and Pakistan is better off because America has a close relation with India. On my trip to Islamabad, I will meet with President Musharraf to discuss Pakistan's vital co-operation in the war on terror and our efforts to foster economic and political development so we can reduce the appeal of radical Islam. I believe that a prosperous, democratic Pakistan will be a steadfast partner for America, a peaceful neighbor for India, and a force for freedom and moderation in the Arab world.

The advance for freedom is the great story of our time. In 1945, just 2 years before India achieved independence, there were fewer than two dozen democracies on Earth. Today, there are more than 100, and democracies are developing and thriving from Asia to Africa to Eastern Europe to Latin America. The whole world can see that freedom is not an American value or an Indian value; freedom is a universal value, and that is because the source of freedom is a power greater than our own. As Mahatma Gandhi said, "Freedom is the gift of God and the right of every nation." Let us remember those words as we head into the 21st century.

In a few days I'll return to America, and I will never forget my time here in India. America is proud to call your democracy a friend. We're optimistic about your future. The great Indian poet Tagore once wrote, "There's only one history—the history of man." The United States and India go forward with faith in those words. There's only one history of man—and it leads to freedom.

May God bless India.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:42 p.m. at the Purana Qila. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India; professional tennis player Sania Mirza; and President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

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## Digest of Other White House Announcements

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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### **February 25**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

### **February 27**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing followed by a National Security Council meeting. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with widows of prodemocracy advocates who disappeared in Belarus.

Also in the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Alvaro Uribe Velez of Colombia to discuss the conclusion of bilateral free trade negotiations.

The President declared a major disaster in Idaho and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding from December 30, 2005, through and including January 4, 2006.

The President announced his intention to nominate William Ludwig Wehrum, Jr., to be Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for Air and Radiation.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology: F. Duane Ackerman; Paul M. Anderson; Robert A. Brown; Nance K. Dicciani; Richard H. Herman; Martin C. Jischke; Fred Kavli; Daniel A. Reed; Hector de Jesus Ruiz; Stratton D.

Sclavos; John Brooks Slaughter; Joseph M. Tucci; Robert E. Witt; and Tadataka Yamada.

The President announced his intention to designate Susan Schanlaber Barnes as Vice Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

The President announced his intention to designate Jeffrey William Runge as Acting Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Science and Technology.

### **February 28**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Kabul, Afghanistan, arriving the following day.

In the evening, while en route to Afghanistan, the President and Mrs. Bush stopped over at Shannon International Airport, in Shannon, Ireland, where President Bush greeted U.S. Marines being deployed to Iraq.

### **March 1**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, at the Presidential Palace in Kabul, Afghanistan, the President had a working lunch with President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to New Delhi, India, where, upon arrival, they were greeted by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India and his wife, Gursharan Kaur.

### **March 2**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush participated in an arrival ceremony with President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India and his wife, Gursharan Kaur, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, the official residence of the President of India. They then participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial.

In the afternoon, at the Taj Palace Hotel, the President and Mrs. Bush had lunch with Prime Minister Singh and his wife, Gursharan Kaur. Later, at Roosevelt House, he greeted U.S. Embassy personnel and their families. Then, at the Maurya Sheraton Hotel and Towers, he participated in separate

meetings with Indian opposition leader L.K. Advani and Indian National Congress Party chairman Sonia Gandhi.

In the evening, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, the President participated in a courtesy call on President Kalam.

The President announced his designation of the following individuals as members of a Presidential delegation to attend the Inauguration of President Michelle Bachelet of Chile on March 11: Condoleezza Rice (head of delegation); Craig A. Kelly; and Karen P. Hughes.

The President announced his designation of the following individuals as members of a Presidential delegation to the Inauguration of President Anibal Cavaco Silva of Portugal on March 9: George H.W. Bush (head of delegation); Al Hoffman; and John D. Stufflebeem.

The President announced his designation of the following individuals as members of a Presidential delegation to attend the opening ceremonies of the IX Paralympic Winter Games in Torino, Italy: Margaret Spellings (head of delegation); Ronald P. Spogli; Kirk Bauer; Chad Colley; and Nancy Starnes.

### **March 3**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to Hyderabad, India. He then visited Acharya N.G. Ranga Agriculture University.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to New Delhi.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Islamabad, Pakistan.

The President announced the nomination of John W. Cox to be Chief Financial Officer at the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The President announced the nomination of George McDade Staples to be Director General of the Foreign Service at the Department of State, and his intention to appoint him Chairman of the Board of the Foreign Service.

The President announced the nomination of Mickey D. Barnett and Katherine C. Tobin to be Governors on the Board of Governors of the U.S. Postal Service.

The President announced the designation of William Ludwig Wehrum, Jr., as Acting

Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation at the Environmental Protection Agency.

The President announced the designation of Sean O'Hollaren as Deputy Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs.

The President announced the designation of Lisa E. Epifani as Special Assistant to the President for Economic Policy.

The President announced the designation of Brian V. McCormack as Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Public Liaison.

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### **Nominations Submitted to the Senate**

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The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

#### ***Submitted February 27***

John G. Emiling,  
of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce, vice Brett T. Palmer, resigned.

Timothy Anthony Junker,  
of Iowa, to be U.S. Marshal for the Northern District of Iowa for the term of 4 years, vice John Edward Quinn.

Patrick Carroll Smith, Sr.,  
of Maryland, to be U.S. Marshal for the Western District of North Carolina for the term of 4 years, vice Gregory Allyn Forest, resigned.

William Ludwig Wehrum, Jr.,  
of Tennessee, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, vice Jeffrey R. Holmstead, resigned.

#### ***Submitted March 2***

Mickey D. Barnett,  
of New Mexico, to be a Governor of the U.S. Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2013, vice Robert F. Rider, term expired.

John W. Cox,  
of Texas, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development, vice Carin M. Barth, resigned.

George McDade Staples,  
of Kentucky, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Director General of the Foreign Service, vice W. Robert Pearson, resigned.

Katherine C. Tobin,  
of New York, to be a Governor of the U.S. Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2012, vice S. David Fineman, term expired.

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### **Checklist of White House Press Releases**

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The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

#### ***Released February 27***

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed S. 1989

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Idaho

#### ***Released February 28***

Transcript of a press gaggle by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and National Security Adviser Stephen J. Hadley

#### ***Released March 1***

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan and Deputy Press Secretary Joe Hagin

#### ***Released March 2***

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Stephen J. Hadley

Transcript of a press briefing by Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns